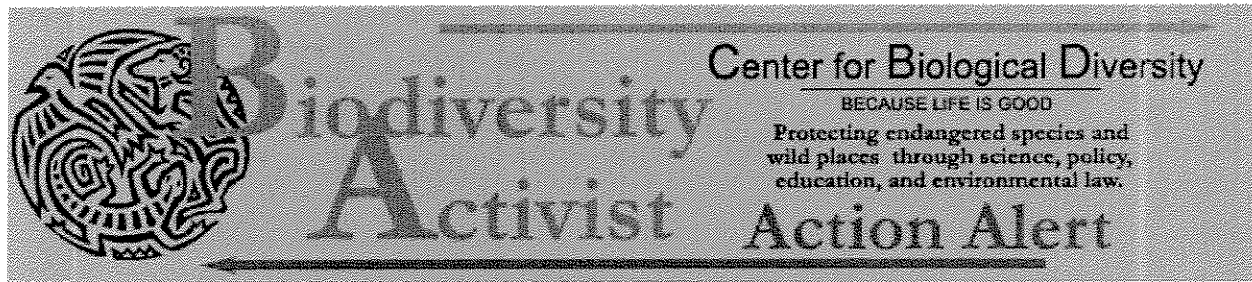


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ACT TODAY to Oppose Aerial Herbicide Spraying on Public Lands - FEB. 10 DEADLINE

**Campaign
Launched:**
February 09, 2006

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) that claims to analyze the impacts of BLM's proposal to use aerial spraying of herbicides to control invasive plant species on public lands. The proposal would allow BLM to spray 14 different herbicides, many of which are "new" and untested, on over 262 million acres of BLM land in the 17 western states.

Sample Letter for Campaign

Subject: BLM Vegetation Treatment with Herbicides PEIS

Dear [Decision Maker] ,

I am writing to comment on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States. While BLM's stated goal of limiting the expansion of non-native invasive species on public lands is very important, it cannot be achieved at the cost of native plants and animals and the ecosystems on which they depend. I am appalled that BLM would seriously consider adopting this proposal to use aerial spraying of these poisons and risk decimating the biological diversity of our public land and waters.

BLM has failed to consider the causes of vegetation conversions and the spread of invasive species in the western landscapes, as well as the causes of catastrophic fire, unhealthy ecosystems and impaired wildlife habitat. Management objectives on public lands should emphasize environmentally benign biological and mechanical control of invasive plant species, and no management activities should be permitted that may cause further introduction of non-native species. The spread of invasive plants is caused by removal of native vegetation and ground disturbance by off-road vehicles, logging and grazing. BLM can stop the spread of invasive plant species by restricting or limiting these activities from intact native ecosystems, particularly in riparian areas. The PEIS offers none of these preventative management measures as an alternative

to herbicide spraying - a major shortfall of the plan.

Looking at the causes of the spread of invasive plant species instead of simply one type of treatment could result in a management plan that would be far more sensible and beneficial in restoring the land to long-term health and productivity. These public lands need long-term management strategies that will restore native ecosystems, not simply attempts to eliminate invasive plant species. The Programmatic Environmental Report (PER) that was issued along with the PEIS does nothing to remedy these shortcomings; it simply addresses treatments other than herbicide spraying that may be used to control invasive plants.

Finally, and most importantly, the PEIS entirely fails to adequately identify and address the potential impacts to native plants and animals from the proposed herbicide spraying although the proposed action could devastate many native plants and animal species - including many rare, threatened and endangered species - and cause unanticipated changes to entire ecosystems. This is unacceptable.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]

Background Information

While the Center recognizes that non-native vegetation and invasive shrubs have caused an imbalance on many public lands, BLM fails to acknowledge that the cause of this landscape conversion is largely due to ongoing impacts that the agency fails to address; from livestock grazing, roads, and fire suppression to global warming, vegetation changes have been inflicted on the land by human mismanagement and misguided policy. The Center believes that the PEIS merely furthers the degradation of our public lands and continues the trend of imprudent decision-making and land management. Moreover, many, if not all, of these herbicides were approved for use by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in violation of the Endangered Species Act because EPA granted approval without first consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service as to the potential impacts to listed species.

The entire document is available for review [here](#).

The comment period was extended and comments are now due by February 10, 2006.

Please send in your comments to: Brian Amme, EIS Project Manager, vegeis@nv.blm.gov.

[Center for Biological Diversity](#)

